



Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) Meeting Minutes for Thursday, May 13, 2021

Present: Michael Hashizume, Mike Mulligan, Israel Laureles, John Vogler, Kara Lerwick, Amanda Koppel, Caitlin Ahearn, Nathanael May, Corey McManus, Ananda Vardhana, Michael Dunlevy

Absent: Annee Ashton

Staff: Maggie Tidmore, Jean Senechal Biggs

Guests: Jerome Sibayan, Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg, Amy Browning (Mayor's Youth Advisory Board liaison), Councilor Nadia Hasan, Gery Keck (THPRD), Renee Brucker (THPRD)

Zoom Meeting Housekeeping/Best Practices

Maggie Tidmore reviewed Zoom housekeeping / best practices

Call to Order and Agenda Review

Meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM

Approval of March Minutes

April's minutes were approved at 6:41 PM.

Public Comment

There was no comment from the public.

Council Liaison Update (Councilor Nadia Hasan)

The City is about to hire a city manager. The City is hosting a community forum with the two finalists. Tomorrow (5/14) Council is holding a special executive session to hopefully make a decision.

May is budget month, Council is holding 2-3 meetings a week starting next week on budget.

Beaverton Night Market is recruiting for vendors right now. Please direct people you know towards the Night Market.

Advocacy as a Committee Member (Jean Senechal Biggs)

At last month's BAC meeting, both Annee and Ananda asked for clarification about how BAC member can advocate for state legislation.

Jean asked the City Attorney's office for clarification. Oregon law (ORS 260.432) prohibits boards and commissions from advocating for or against legislation or discussing it during meetings. Advocacy on behalf or against political candidates is also prohibited by state law.

However, BAC members may be involved in advocacy in their personal time.

John asked if the BAC had been asked to endorse a particular piece of legislation. Jean replied that Annee had raised this question in response to OR SB 395, but it was an open-ended question.

Michael Hashizume asked if, while advocating for legislation or a political candidate in their personal time, BAC members could identify themselves as such but clarify that they don't speak on behalf of the committee. Jean confirmed this.

Mike had some questions about interacting with the press. Jean said she'd clarify with the City Attorney.

Action Item: Westside Trail Bridge over US 26

Ananda and Amanda had formed a working group to draft a letter from the BAC in support of Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation's (THPRD) planned pedestrian/cyclist bridge over US Highway 26.

Ananda made a motion to vote to approve the BAC's letter to THPRD. The motion was unanimously approved at 6:59 PM.

City of Beaverton Updates

Jean went over some updates from the City of Beaverton.

CASH (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope) Oregon is offering low-income Beaverton residents free tax preparation through Thursday July 15th. The program is offered by Metropolitan Family Service, and appointments can be made either over the phone or online. Tax Day is May 17th this year.

Council meetings are moving to 6 PM instead of 6:30 PM during the COVID-19 state of emergency. Information about council agendas, meeting information, and other resources are available on the City of Beaverton's website.

Member Comments and Announcements

Amy announced that the Mayor's Youth Advisory Board (MYAB) is accepting applications for new members and asked BAC members to reach out to any interested high schoolers or 8th graders and encourage them to apply. The application deadline for MYAB is next Friday, May 21st.

Amanda, John, and Nathanael volunteered for a bike rodeo at Fir Grove elementary and shared their experiences.

Several BAC members attended the Oregon Active Transportation Summit (OATS), an annual event held by The Street Trust. Caitlin, Mike, and Nathanael talked about some of the highlights from the summit.

Michael Hashizume asked if talks from OATS were recorded. Jean replied that while they were available to registered attendees, she wasn't sure about the public.

City Council Candidate Forum (Jerome Sibayan, Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg)

Two candidates for Beaverton's open City Council seat visited the BAC to talk about their campaign and answer questions from members.

Jerome Sibayan discussed his military and civil engineering background, as well as his civic involvement in Beaverton. Jerome also talked about participating in Bike Beaverton and his experiences with active transportation within the city. He says that, if elected, he will donate all of his councilor's salary to charity. Jerome's primary motivation for running is to implement the new city charter.

Mike asked for more detail about Jerome's history with public works. Jerome talked about his experience with bike lanes while working on a military base in Europe.

Israel asked how long Jerome had lived in Beaverton. Jerome replied that he has lived in Beaverton for four years.

Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg spoke about her history growing up in Beaverton and her experience as Chair of THPRD's Board of Directors. She talked about working with Oregon State Representative WLnsvy Campos to use funds from the American Rescue Plan to create more public bathrooms in Beaverton, including one for the Fanno Creek Trail at the trailhead on Denny Road.

Michael Dunlevy asked for more details about the public bathroom. Ashley said that the plan is for a modular, permanent structure with two separate bathrooms.

Mike asked Ashley what she perceived as barriers to active transportation in her daily commute. She answered that two roads that she uses, Canyon and Walker, are intimidating and lacking sidewalks and bike lanes.

Beaverton Creek Trail Project (Rene Brucker, Gery Keck)

Rene Brucker and Gery Keck of THPRD came to the BAC to discuss segments 3 and 4 of the Beaverton Creek Trail, which will connect the northeast corner of Tualatin Hills Nature Park to SW Hocken Avenue.

These new trail segments will largely follow the MAX tracks, border the Nike and Tektronix properties, and span about 1.5 miles.

This project is in the planning phase, with construction expected to take place from 2025-2026. As part of the planning, THPRD is conducting a virtual community meeting about the project on May 20th at 6pm. Details about the meeting and the project as a whole are available at <http://www.thprd.org/parks-in-progress/beaverton-creek-trail/>

Mike asked Rene what sort of fencing or barrier will be used between the MAX tracks and the trail. She said that it will be similar to what THPRD uses on the Waterhouse trail near the Tualatin Hills Nature Park.

Amanda asked for more information about the Murray Boulevard underpass. Rene said that the segment will be located on the north side of Terman Road and crossings in the area will be improved.

Michael Hashizume raised the issue of lighting at the Murray Boulevard underpass. Rene said that there will likely be lighting improvements throughout these segments, particularly at street crossings.

Corey asked about challenges to the project. Rene discussed right of way issues, geographic obstacles (Beaverton creek and slopes alongside the alignment), and its location in a 100 year floodplain zone.

Mike asked what kind of controls are planned for pedestrian street crossings. Rene said that it will likely be similar to what is installed at the Merlo Road MAX station crossings.

Mike asked how TriMet will change the platform at the Beaverton Creek MAX station to accommodate the trail. Rene answered that TriMet has already widened the south side of the pedestrian crossing and added guard rails and is planning to further improve crossing safety.

The Beaverton Downtown Loop (Dan Turk)

Dan Turk from the City of Beaverton came to the BAC to discuss the Beaverton Downtown Loop, a project to improve pedestrian and cyclist experiences on Hall and Watson between Beaverton Central and Old Town.

Dan presented the BAC with a slideshow about the project outlining community engagement, existing conditions of the project area, and data on pedestrian and cyclist crashes.

Dan invited questions from BAC members and asked for feedback on existing conditions.

Amanda discussed some of the challenges crossing streets in the area as a pedestrian and made note of the difficulty of left turns on The Loop while cycling.

John had concerns about the consistency of yellow lights at intersections along The Loop.

Ananda said that, while cycling across Farmington going south on Watson, the traffic signal doesn't allow adequate time to cross. He also noted that there is a large bump from the freight rail tracks, which can be difficult for cyclists.

Mike raised concerns about vehicle traffic at Rose Biggi Avenue and Millikan Way. Corey, who works for TriMet, said that due to concerns about vehicles stopping on MAX tracks crossing Rose Biggi, traffic control devices such as stop signs have not been used at that location.

Mike asked how the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) are participating in planning for The Loop. Jean answered that, as ODOT owns Canyon Road (Oregon Route 8), they are part of the Loop's technical advisory committee to work through this project.

Council update

Councilor Hasan asked BAC members to check in on people they know with family in India as the COVID-19 pandemic has hit the country hard. She talked about her family in India affected by the pandemic and Beaverton's Indian community.

She also asked BAC members to remember to vote in the May election.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.